

**Friends of the Little Miami State Park
Board of Directors' Meeting 1/10/2018
Hamilton Township, OH**

Call to Order – Ron

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. following informal session with Melissa Clark.
Board members present: Ron Gorley, Don Hahn, George Stockham, Bruce Cortright, Janet Slater;
Paul Morgan by telephone
Absent: Steve Murphy, Mike Dresch
ODNR: Melissa Clark, who had to leave at 7:15.

Introduction of Members and Guests - Ron

FLMSP: Dick Feldman, Tom McCray, Rod Gossett, Holly King, Rick Forrester, Mary Ann Wendeln
Guests: Wade Johnston (Tri-State Trails), Brian and Truc Peters (Ohio Trail Shuttle)

Approval of Minutes from November 8

Motion by George to approve minutes of 11-08-2017 Board meeting; seconded by Don; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Reported by Ron in Mike's absence

As of 12/31/2017

Cash On Hand:

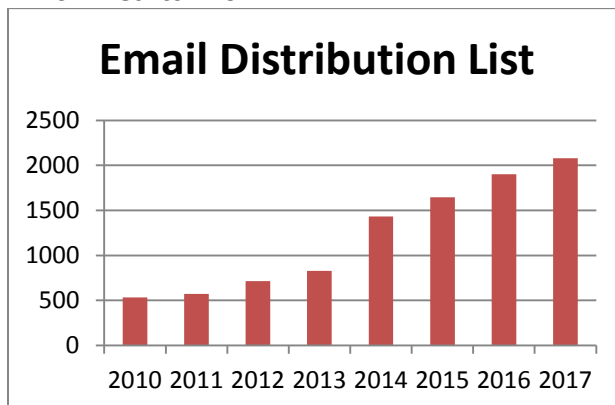
Savings Account \$22,156.78

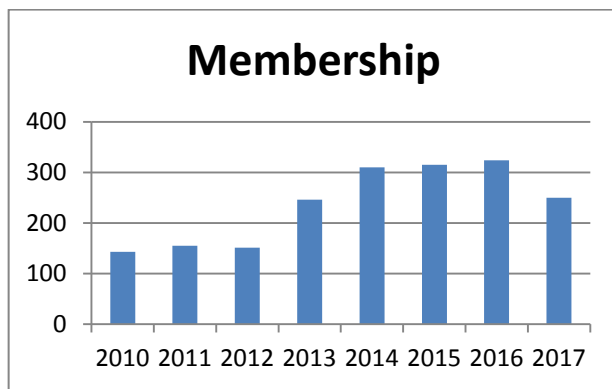
Checking Account 12,809.59

Total \$34,966.37 All funds are unrestricted

- Update on moving insurance policy to Francis and Mannerino (due January 21, 2018): Mike expects a recommendation from David Mannerino at end of this week.
- For ease in participating in the Federal Employee CFC program, need to go back filing an IRS form 990, versus a 990EZ

FLMSP Metrics - Ron





Mike Dresch reported 93 members to date for 2018.

Volunteer Hours reached a record high in 2017, totaling 6,086.

Email distribution: 2217

1,058 Facebook "Likes" and 42 Twitter followers.

ODNR Update - Melissa Clark

Recap of ODNR discussion that began before the official board meeting. Restated here for the official record.

- Tree Blitz: Melissa thanked FLMSF volunteers for their help with the successful tree blitz. Ron and Melissa will tour Corwin to Loveland on January 11 and determine which areas ODNR will finish clearing (high density of lumber and branches - more suitable for loaders, dump trucks and chippers) and which areas FLMSF will finish clearing.
- Tree cutting ban for FLMSF still in place
- ODOT update on I-71, I-275 and Rte 48: Repairs to the Rte 48 bridge will necessitate a trail closure sometime this winter. No update on I-275. Planting is done on the slope at I-71; now we wait to see if the vegetation will hold the soil in place.
- Debrief from Jan 3 meeting with Melissa Clark, Sarah Blair, Rick Forester, Becky Retzer and Ron Gorley
 - ODNR priorities:
 1. Safety of trail users
 2. Integrity of Resources (protect the trail and river)
 3. Aesthetics (mowing, planting, etc.)
 4. Identity:
 - Signage: guiding to the park; at entrances of park; within the park
 - Programming: Events, naturalist hikes, river floats.
 - Kiosks: conform to standards in other state parks
 - 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Scenic Rivers Act. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Little Miami designation as a Scenic River. 2019 also marks the 40th anniversary of the Little Miami State Park.
 - Earth Day, Sunday, April 22 event at Little Miami Conservancy. Opportunity for FLMSF to set up a table and banner for awareness and recruiting.
 - River Floats: participation in July 8, August 3 and September 2 events. People will register for these floats and pay into Eventbrite. Money goes to FLMSF. FLMSF then provides and serves snack or lunch, with profits remaining in FLMSF. Board was receptive to this idea.
 - Can our technology person set up a website based on a QR code than might be placed on generic signage for these types of events?
 - Adventure Summit in Dayton Feb 9-10. Does FLMSF want to participate?
 - ODNR will spray for a pollinator garden in Wayne Twp in May and October of 2018. Planting will commence in 2019.

- Bruce reported a large tree very close to the trail in Terrace Park is buckling the trail pavement. He asked Melissa if FLMSF could hire a professional tree service to remove the tree. Melissa approved, provided the felling occurs before the March 31 deadline for the bat nesting season. She has no staff until April so ODNR cannot remove the tree before then unless it is an imminent safety hazard. Bruce will obtain quotes from tree services.
- Melissa reported some of the signs on the trail need to be cleaned or removed. She and Ron will include signs in their upcoming survey of the trail. Dick Feldman will check out the northern signs.

Ohio Trail Shuttle - Brian Peters

Inspired by the convenience of using a shuttle service on another trail system, Brian and his wife Truc have started a business to shuttle trail users on the Ohio to Erie Trail and other long trail systems in Ohio. Brian reports that the most-asked question from those who want to cycle on the Ohio to Erie Trail is if there is a shuttle. Brian provided contact information and we agreed to post this in Trail Mail.

Tri-State Trail Counting Program - Wade Johnson

Funded by an Interact for Health grant, Tri-State Trails has completed its first year using newly purchased counters and analysis supported by several consultants including FLMSF's John Theuring and Paul Morgan, as well as a trail user survey. Wade proposed FLMSF collaborate with Tri-State Trails in the future, and indicated FLMSF may be over-sampling. FLMSF has agreed to share our raw counter data, but has made no firm commitments beyond that. Ron and Tom McCray will meet with John Theuring to discuss possible collaboration with Tri-State Trails.

Community-Based Capital Request for Repaving - Ron (15 min)

- Agreements from Sen. Wilson and Rep. Brinkman to spearhead this effort in the State Assembly
- Formal request submission to Sen. Wilson on January 3 (board was copied at the time)
- Request for consideration from Stephan Caraway, SW Ohio Liaison for Gov. Kasich - no promises
- Best thing to do now is generate wide-spread support
 - TrailMail - complete
 - State - complete
 - Hamilton, Clermont, Warren and Greene Counties - complete
 - Municipalities (Columbia Twp, Terrace Park, Milford, Indian Hill Symmes Twp, Miami Twp, Loveland, South Lebanon, Hamilton Twp, Morrow, Salem Twp, Washington Twp, Corwin, Wayne Twp, Spring Valley Twp, Xenia Twp, Union Twp and Deerfield Twp) - complete
 - Press - complete
 - Business and organizations - none contacted as of 1/7/2018
- Ron reviewed budgeting process and reasons for the current grass-roots approach to lawmakers for the July 2018 – June 2020 Capital Budget. Three sections between Morrow and Fosters have been targeted to be included in this biennial campaign, with the expectation we will campaign for additional repaving in the next budget cycle.
- Several organizations have indicated they have a no-lobbying policy, but they are encouraged to correspond individually to the state representatives.

Expenditures for Consideration (5 min)

- Mike - Motion for Mike or Bruce to spend up to \$350 for a new chainsaw and associated hardware for the southern cache. Context: Previous chainsaw from Don Mills is broken past the point of repair. Desire for a smaller chainsaw, such as a Stihl MS211. If in need of a larger chainsaw, can always get one from the Fosters cache. Motion seconded by Don. Motion unanimously approved.

- Tree planting: Rick Forrester asked the board to provide funds for buying trees and supplies for 2018 planting. These trees would be primarily sycamores, used for bank stabilization, and redbud and dogwoods, used as ornamental understory trees. George moved to provide funds not to exceed \$500 for trees and supplies; Don seconded; motion unanimously approved.

Board Succession / Recruitment - Ron (10 min)

- Terms expire in 2018 for Paul, George and Mike. All have indicated they will not stand for re-election. Don, Janet and Steve's term expires in 2019. Bruce and Ron will serve an additional term. A Treasurer needs to be recruited. At least one additional Director needs to be recruited. A President needs to be identified.
- Rod Gossett and Rick Forrester each expressed interest in a board position.

Annual Meeting: Plan for early May. Don Hahn will check availability of the Foster's Pointe Clubhouse.

Next Board Meeting -

February 14, 2018, 6:30 pm at Wayne Township. It was decided to change the meeting time from the present 7:00 to 6:30 to better accommodate Melissa's schedule. The 6:30 time will apply to all following monthly meetings until further notice.

Motion to Adjourn: George; seconded, Ron. Approved.